



Morrow County confirms second case of COVID19

In press release from the Morrow County Emergency Management, two cases of COVID19 have been reported in north and south Morrow County. Morrow County Public Health's highest priority is the safety of the public and protecting the life and the identity of the COVID-19 victims. The press release stated, "We are required to follow the Center for Disease Control, and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidelines. We are bound by confidentiality laws. Most information obtained by OHA or a local public health in the course of an investigation of a disease outbreak is confidential."

tracting COVID-19. "There is strong evidence that "social distance" currently in place can lessen transmission," The most recent data suggest that current social distancing measures could cut transmission rates between 50 and 70 percent if residents maintain these limitations on virus-spreading interactions.

The following are procedures recommended to lessen the chance of transmitting the virus:

-Keep six feet distance from others when out in public getting basic needs and restrict outings.

-Hand washing before and after eating, coughing, sneezing and touching surfaces out in public.

-When soap and water

are unavailable use hand sanitizer.

-Stay home and don't travel if your reason for travel can be delayed.

-Cough or sneeze into a tissue, or your elbow sleeve, and avoid touching your face.

-Stay home if you are sick or have a temp at or above 100.F

Those considered highest risk for getting COVID-19 include; adults 60 and older, or anyone with a serious health condition, including lung or heart problems, kidney disease, or diabetes, or anyone who has a suppressed immune system. They should stay home as much as possible and avoid gatherings.

Stay Home, Save Lives.

Candidates forum to be held via Zoom

The candidate's forum for open Morrow County positions will be held via a Zoom video conference and the Boardman Chamber Facebook Live on Monday, April 20 at 6 p.m. The forum, organized by the Heppner and Boardman Chambers, will give residents an opportunity to hear from each candidate.

Questions for the candidates should be submitted by Sunday, April 19 by contacting the Heppner Chamber at 541-676-5536, text 503-970-7226 or email to heppnerchamber@centurytel.com and the Boardman Chamber at 541-481-3014, text 541-571-2394 or email to torrie@boardmanchamber.org.

ber.org. If submitting questions via email, please input "Candidates Forum" in the subject line.

Candidates included in the forum will be Joseph B Armato, Jim Doherty, Joel R Peterson and Michael Sweek for Morrow County Commissioner, position one; Theresa Crawford, Glen Diehl and Kelly L Doherty for Justice of the Peace; and Sabrina L Bailey Cave, Cody High, Jaylene Papineau and Eric Patton for Treasurer.

Immediately following the candidate forum there will be a presentation for the city of Boardman GO Bond, Ballot Measure #25-81.

Members of the public who are interested in participating electronically should sign into Zoom prior to 6 p.m. at https://zoom.us/j/287416202. The meeting ID is 287416202. For those who do not have a microphone, call one of the phone numbers listed: 346-248-7799 US, 669-900-6833 US, 312-626-6799 US, 929-436-2866 US, 253-215-8782 US, 301-715-8592 US.

Anyone unable to use Zoom should dial the meeting center phone conference number, 541-676-5692, access code 13038# for audio only. Please use this number only if Zoom video or audio is not available.

Lexington meeting attendees restricted

The town of Lexington will hold their first budget meeting on April 13 and the regular town council meeting on April 14. Both meetings are limited to 10 people due to restrictions related to the coronavirus. Those members of the public who wished to attend were instructed in the town newsletter to phone the

town hall to get on the list.

The maximum number of attendees for both meetings has been reached. The town council is researching the possibility of virtual or conference call options for others who will not be allowed inside. Check the Town of Lexington Facebook page for updates.

According to the League of Oregon Cities, there is a statute which states passing a budget for a municipality must be completed by the end of the fiscal year. The governor's executive order does not have the authority to extend the date; it must be done by the state legislature.

Morrow County teacher receives recognition

In March, Eastern Oregon University (EOU) announced recipients of their 2020 Inspirational Teacher Awards.

According to the EOU press release, freshmen at EOU who maintained dean's list standing during fall term 2019 recommended a high school teacher who influenced them on the road to higher education and academic excellence. EOU, which has a legation

of teacher education, presents the Inspirational Teacher Awards annually in recognition of outstanding high school teachers who encourage and represent the importance of higher education to their students.

For the Morrow County School District, EOU student Joseph O'Brien recommended Madison Hynes, who teaches agriculture and math at River-

side Jr/Sr High School in Boardman.

Dirk Dirksen, Morrow County SD superintendent, said the district will present a certificate to Hynes at a future date. "We encourage our teachers to make strong connections with students and help them identify their future paths, so are pleased to celebrate such a positive outcome for a student," Dirksen said.

Call in program will help small businesses with funds during these tough times

This Thursday listen in and learn about forgivable loans for payroll, and disaster loans for operation

There is help out there for Morrow County small businesses suffering during the COVID-19 pandemic. Call in this Thursday evening at 6 p.m. and learn how you can access both the payroll protection program, which does not have to be paid back, and the Economic Injury loan for those impacted by the virus.

The call-in program will begin at 6 p.m. this Thursday, March 9 and is being sponsored by Greg Smith and the Morrow Development Corporation, Eastern Oregon University, US Small Business Administration, SBDC Oregon, Business Oregon, Umatilla Electric Co-op and The Heppner Gazette-Times.

Small Business Paycheck Program

Thursday evening you will learn how your business can receive money to pay up to eight weeks of payroll costs including benefits. The money can also be used to pay interest on mortgages, rent and utilities. These fully forgiven funds are provided in the form of loans that do not have to be paid back when used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent and utilities. More details will be disclosed during the call Thursday. You will also be able to ask questions at that time.

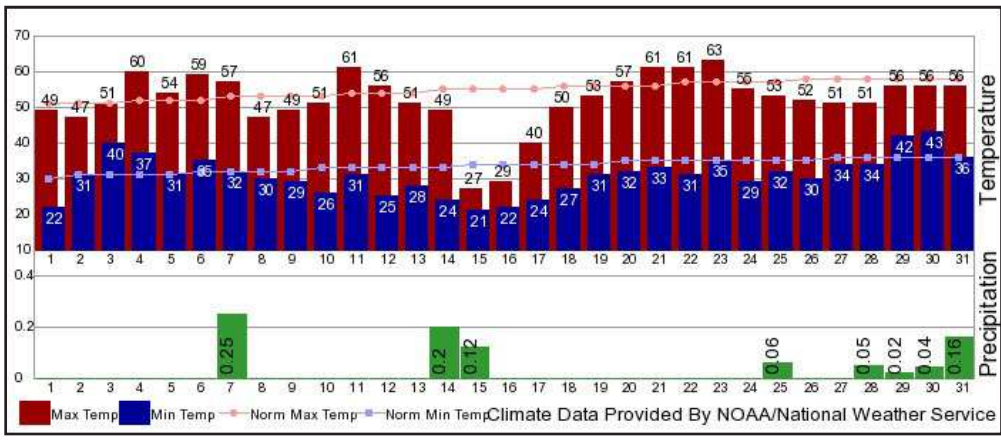
To access the call-in program at 6 p.m. Thursday evening call 1-669-

900-6833. The meeting ID is 956-208-292 and the password is 000746 (see advertisement this issue).

Economic Injury Disaster Loans

Also discussed on the call will be the Disaster Loan Program through the Small Business Administration. The loan provides vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is for any small business with less than 500 employees including sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed persons.

March colder than normal



According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged colder than normal during the month of March.

The average temperature was 41.4 degrees which was 2.8 degrees below normal. High temperatures averaged 52.0 degrees, which was 2.9 degrees below normal. The highest was 63 degrees on the 23rd. Low temperatures averaged 30.9 degrees, which was 2.6 degrees below normal. The lowest was 21 degrees, on the 15th.

There were 18 days

with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There were two days when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.90 inches during March, which was 0.62 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation, at least .01 inch, was received on eight days with the heaviest, 0.25 inches reported on the 7th.

Precipitation this year has reached 2.90 inches, which is 1.21 inches below normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 4.28 inches, which is 3.89 inches below normal.

Snowfall totaled 4.5 inches with at least one inch of snow reported on two days. The heaviest snowfall was 2.5 inches reported on the 15th. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was five inches on the 15th.

The outlook for April from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner rise from 59.0 degrees at the start of April to 64.0 degrees at the end of April. Normal lows rise from 36.0 degrees to 40.0 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.51 inches.

Morrow County students make winter term honor roll

Several Morrow County full-time students have been named to the Blue Mountain Community College winter term 2019-2020 honor roll. The President's list includes students with a 3.75 to 4.0 GPA and the Vice President's list includes students with a 3.5 to 3.74 GPA.

President's list students

are Nickolaus Armstrong, Bianca Avalos, Angela Barragan, Sherry Bishop, Jessica Calvillo, Vanessa Calvillo, Olivia Castellanos, Makenna Collins, Myka Davis, Elizabeth Goforth, Riley Gorham, Belinda Lomas, Sandra Macomber, Jason Rea, Johana Sepulveda, Samuel Strong, Cooper Szasz, Brett Trout-

man and Haley White.

Vice President's list students are Marisol Alvarez, Castaneda Monica Castellanos, Hannah Chapell, Morgan Correa, Taylor Davis, Katia Garay Rojo, Ethan Holiday, Kimberly Homer, Gibson McCurry, Nancy Mejia, Lainey Rogers, Sean Shimer and Hayden White.

Howl to show gratitude

By Bobbi Gordon

Cities and towns across the country are cheering and howling in the evening to remind people they are not alone or to show appreciation to health care workers and those on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic. Heppner has joined the new craze, with

residents stepping outside and howling every night at 8 p.m.

Videos are showing up on social media showing people howling like wolves or coyotes out their front doors. In some cities people have chosen to cheer as loud as they can, clap

or whistle. The point is to simply make some noise to show appreciation, while also letting out some isolation frustration.

You don't have to be a member of a Facebook group or any social media to participate. Just step outside at 8 p.m. and howl.

Advertisement for Polaris New Year's Sales Event. Features a Polaris Ranger and a Polaris Sportsman. Text includes "REBATES UP TO \$500* AND FINANCING AS LOW AS 3.99% APR FOR 36 MONTHS**". Contact info for Morrow County Grain Growers is provided.